

## **MINUTES OF THE FORT MONMOUTH MILITARY RETIREE COUNCIL**

1. The Fort Monmouth Military Retiree Council meeting was called to order at 0900 hours, Saturday 9 February 2002, Garrison Commanders Conference Room, Russel Hall, Building 286, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey by LTC(Ret) Robert Waldburger, Chairman. MSG(Ret) Louis Guiliano, Secretary, led the Salute to the American Flag and gave the invocation. The Minutes of 3 November 2001 were approved by the Council as written.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT: (22)**

MG(Ret) Vito Morgano  
COL(Ret) Lawrence Engel  
COL(Ret) Robert Straut  
LTC(Ret) Casimir Aksomaitis  
LTC(Ret) Woodrow Harrison  
LTC(Ret) George Norton  
LTC(Ret) Robert Waldburger, Chairman  
MAJ(Ret) Harry Haarup, USAF  
MAJ(Ret) Norman Hughes  
MAJ(Ret) William O'Brien  
MAJ(Ret) Paul D. Roman  
CW3(Ret) Gilmon Brooks  
CW2(Ret) John Sloyne-Smith  
CSM(Ret) Robert Theall  
CSM(Ret) Joseph Williams  
MSG(Ret) Louis Guiliano, Secretary/Treasurer/Historian  
MSG(Ret) Charles Kilroy  
MSG(Ret) Walter Miller  
SFC(Ret) James Harris, Vice Chairman  
SFC(Ret) Albert Youngblood  
SSG(Ret) Horace Perry  
Mrs. Catherine Kurzejewski, Surviving Spouse

### **MEMBERS ABSENT: (3)**

LTC(Ret) Betty Berry  
MSG(Ret) Della Hodges  
SFC(Ret) Theodore Stewart

### **MEMBERS EXCUSED: (3)**

COL(Ret) Maurice Pollock  
SGM (Ret) Frank Owens  
1SG(Ret) Frank Wells

### **MEMBERS RESIGNED: (0)**

**OTHERS PRESENT: (14)**

LTC Stephen Wood, Garrison Commander  
CSM Jeffery Delgado, Garrison CSM  
COL(Ret) Wilbur Bishof, Guest  
COL(Ret) Joseph Puma, Guest  
CW2(Ret) Alton Smith, Guest  
CSM(Ret) Miguel Buddle, Guest  
SFC(Ret) Lillie Battle, Potential Council Member  
PO1(Ret) Daniel Hoff, USN, Guest  
Mr. Glenn Perlakowski, MWR Director, Program Speaker  
Mr. Brian Smith, TRICARE Manager, Program Speaker  
Ms. Lynne Fleury, Chief TAD  
Ms. Jacqueline Moura, RSO  
Mrs. Mary Aksomaitis, Guest  
Mrs. Eileen Hoff, Guest

**TOTAL INDIVIDUALS PRESENT: (36)**

**OTHERS EXCUSED: (1)**

CSM Calvin Jones, CECOM CSM

**OTHERS NOT PRESENT: (0)**

**2. REMARKS:**

- a. The Council Chairman welcomed everyone and asked guests to introduce themselves.
- b. Program Speaker: Mr. Glenn Perlakowski, MWR Director, spoke about what activities are available to the Military Retiree population, his "major constituency who patronizes the MWR facilities on the Post." Distributed MWR promotional literature. Question and answer period followed.
- c. Program Speaker: Mr. Brian Smith, Sierra Manager, spoke about TRICARE For Life, available to all military retirees and eligible beneficiaries who are 65 and older. Sierra Military Health Services will be presenting a TRICARE For Life briefing at Patterson Army Health Clinic on Tuesday Feb. 19 at 11:00 a.m.. The briefing will be held in the Staff Conference Room located on the first floor. Question and answer period followed. Mr. Smith can be reached at 732-578-0560 or by E-mail: [Brsmith@sierramilitary.com](mailto:Brsmith@sierramilitary.com).
- d. LTC Wood, Garrison Commander: (1) Presented the Commander's Coin and a Certificate of Appreciation to PO1(Ret) Daniel Hoff, USN, for his many years of dedicated service to the Council. (2) AER Campaign begins March 15. With great appreciation, acknowledgement was given for the generous monetary contributions that the military retirees have given to the AER in past years. (3) Profile of our soldiers in the Army today: 80% are below 35 years of age, 65% are married, 62% have on the average two children per family. Lower enlisted rank pay scale is between \$20-30 thousand a year.

Soldiers in high cost areas sometimes need assistance and AER is there to help. All requests are reviewed for accuracy. A letter from the Commanding General regarding AER will be mailed out soon. (4) Community Symposium 26-27 March. Thanks to military retirees who participate. (5) Appreciated seeing many military retirees at different events throughout the holidays. (6) Commended the Council for the outstanding RAD. "It set the standard!" (7) This year there will be about 35 million dollars spent in support to the infra structure of the installation to include the renovation of the PREP School buildings and housing on the Post.

e. CSM Delgado, Garrison CSM, thanked the retiree community for its outstanding support given to the National Guard soldiers of Bravo Company, 181 Infantry who are temporarily stationed here from Massachusetts. These soldiers appreciated everything that was done to make them feel a part of the Post especially during the holiday season.

### **3. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

a. **HOSPITAL/DENTAL**—LTC(Ret) George Norton: (1) Uniformed Services Family Health Plan effective 1 Jan 02, QualCare and USFHP parted company. (2) Health Consumer Advisory Council is back in business at PAHC. At the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, Colonel Wiley introduced the staff members and welcomed the Council members and visitors. The TRICARE Plus program was explained. Contact Mr. Delisa at 732-532-0949 if interested. Staff changes and the VA Clinic at PAHC were explained. The next meeting will be in March in the PAHC Commander's conference room. POC is Michele Steinert, Patient Representative at 732-532-1328. (3) Retiree monthly dental rates are \$30.42 for a single, two persons, \$59.18 family (3 or more) \$94.29. If interested, visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/beneficiary//supporg.html>. (4) TRICARE For Life (TFL). The billing process is as follows: The health care provider (doctor's office) submits a claim to Medicare. From Medicare, the claims are forwarded electronically to the secondary insurance carrier, TFL or any Other Health Insurance (OHI) carrier. If the beneficiary has an OHI, it pays its share and provides the health care provider and the beneficiary an Explanation of Benefits (EOB). After receipt of the EOB from the beneficiary's OHI, the health care provider may submit a claim to TFL for any additional payments. In these cases, the beneficiary will also receive an EOB from TFL reflecting it made no payment to the health care provider. When no other health insurance is involved, the EOB from TFL will reflect the amount paid to the health care provider. Questions may be directed to the TRICARE For Life Program Call Center at 1-888-363-5433. (5) TRICARE Pre-Authorization Criteria: TRICARE Standard no longer requires outpatient non-availability statements, but there are a number of procedures that require pre-authorization for all patients including TRICARE Standard patients and those with other health insurance. It is recommended that patient and provider contact the contractor or TRICARE to be sure services are covered before having the procedure.

b. **LEGISLATIVE**—MSG(Ret) Charles Kilroy: The FY02 National Defense Authorization Act has become law. The new law is titled 107-333.

The law contains a provision that would authorize military retirees with service-connected disabilities to receive disability compensation from the Department of Veteran Affairs without an offset of military retired pay. With the passage of this legislation, Congress has agreed in principle that military retirees should no longer have to pay for their own service-connected disabilities, injuries, illnesses or diseases. Write, call, fax, or Email your Representatives in Congress to push for the funding of this bill. **H.R.1232/S.305:** This removes the two-tier annuity system of SBP so that there is no reduction in annuity when the beneficiary reaches age 62. **H.R. 439:** To extend commissary and exchange privileges to veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 30% or more and to their dependents. **H.R. 81:** To amend the Internal Revenue code so that military retirees would receive a credit for the premiums paid for Medicare part B coverage. **H.R. 612:** To clarify the standards for compensation for Persian Gulf veterans suffering from certain undiagnosed illnesses.

**c. MEMBERSHIP**—MSG(Ret) Guiliano: Total members 27: 14 Officers, 12 Enlisted, 1 Surviving Spouse. Requested any corrections to the new Military Retiree Council Roster. SFC(Ret) Lillie Battle, potential Council member will be interviewed today at the conclusion of the meeting.

**d. NEWSLETTER**—MSG(Ret) Hodges: Absent. See Jacike Moura with your articles. Next edition should be out in March.

**e. COMMISSARY/PX**—MAJ(Ret) Hughes: **COMMISSARY:** (1) Focus Group will meet on Wednesday, 13 March at 1030 hrs. This meeting is open to both active and retired military and family members. The subject will be the grocery department. (2) The store is hiring two new cashiers. (3) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hot Chili Contest will be held at the commissary on 20 February from 14-1500 hrs. Bring in your best Chili and let the judges do the rest. Contest is open to all authorized shoppers. (4) Store will be opened on Tuesday 19 Feb for regular business hours from 1000-1900. Monday 18 Feb is Presidents Day holiday. (5) Questionnaire entitled, "Do You Know Your Commissary" was distributed to all members. (6) It is very important that we all use and encourage other authorized shoppers to use the commissary and exchange. Sales have been low since 9-11 and it is not difficult to get on Post if you have the proper identification and a current vehicle sticker placed on the upper center of your windshield. Support our facilities and help to increase sales.

**PX:** (1) Renovations are finally completed. Ask exchange personnel for assistance in locating items. (2) "The Jolly Jester", a family owned establishment that provides quality food service at reasonable prices is now located to the left of the main entrance. (3) A one hour photo shop will also be opening outside of the PX shopping area.

**f. POST OBSERVATIONS**—CW2(Ret) Sloyne-Smith: (1) Discussed the late arrival of the calendar of events offered at the Officers' Club and the heat not functioning at Burger King on Post. (2) The 10-MPH speed limit and handicap parking areas not being observed by the commissary/PX. LTC Wood is going to have police patrol the area.

**g. SUNSHINE—LTC(Ret) Aksomaitis:** No expenditures made nor cards mailed since last meeting. \$16.00 was received for refreshments. LTC(Ret) Woody Harrison said that AUSA will give another donation to the Council to cover the cost of refreshments for the quarterly meetings.

**h. WIDOWED SUPPORT GROUP & IVOC--Mrs. Catherine Kurzejewski:** The Holiday Coffee/Social was held in December. The annual Spring luncheon is in the planning stage. The next IVOC meeting will be on February 21. The IVOC Volunteer Reception will be on April 21, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Gibbs Hall. Nomination for special recognition is to be submitted to IVOC by February 22. Please contact Jackie Moura.

**i. OFFICERS' CLUB:--MG(Ret) Morgano/SGM(Ret) Owens (Excused):** Last three Club meetings were cancelled. Need an active 05 who does not travel a lot to chair the meeting and/or have a retired military person be a co-chairman so those meetings can take place if the chairperson is absent. New Piano Bar featuring Mr. Bruce Stephen Foster, pianist and songwriter was “a hit”. Bingo night also went well. The food is always great at the Club. New Club manager is doing a wonderful job. Recommended that the Officers' Club look like a military Club. State Flags, Plaques and other military symbolism should be placed throughout the building. Discussion occurred about authorized parking spaces near the building.

**j. GOLF ADVISORY:--SGM(Ret) Owens (Excused)/MG(Ret) Morgano:** Weekend Tee Times will be at Mulligans when they open. Will start Wednesday's at 1800 hrs. Rate increases for 2002 will be 5%. Maintenance fee will be one dollar for nine holes and two dollars for 18 holes. Golf cart prices will be the same as last year. Spring sign-up will be on the February 1<sup>st</sup>. LTC Scott Miller is the new Golf Council President. Chip Dayton is the Greens Superintendent. Project for 6<sup>th</sup> green is hoped to be completed in April or May. Removing of walkways #3 and 4 will be replaced by sand. Capital projects will start in February. New machine called Side-Winder will save time cutting greens. All equipment is being overhauled. The following holes will be changed: #5 to #8, #8 to #5, #6 to #9 and #9 to #6.

**4. SPECIAL COMMITTEES—Retiree Appreciation Day, Saturday, 19 Oct 02—MG(Ret) Morgano:** (1) Lining up possible special guest speakers. Suggestions from membership are appreciated. Possible speaker, someone from Homeland Security. No politicians due to an election year. (2) Would like to see Flu shots given this year.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Discussion occurred about Council Social. MAJ(Ret) Harrup, USAF, will obtain details from Club and an announcement will be disseminated to the Council membership.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Family Symposium, 26-27 March.** Members, MAJ(Ret) Hughes, SFC(Ret) Harris and Mrs. Kurzejewski volunteered to represent the Council.

- b. Program suggestion for next meeting: Pharmacy representative from PAHC.
- c. Elections for New Chairman, Vice Chairman coming up in August. Elections Committee: MG(Ret) Morgano, LTC(Ret) Harrison, MAJ(Ret) Haarup, USAF, MAJ(Ret) Hughes.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a. Assistance with Tax returns is available again this year. The Fort Monmouth Legal Services Office offers federal and state tax preparation. Eligible clients can call 732-532-4371. Consultants will begin seeing clients February 19<sup>th</sup> on a walk in and appointment basis on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday nights from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Making an appointment will prevent unnecessary delays. The Legal Office is located at building 677, Wilson Ave., Main Post.
- b. SFC(Ret) Youngblood thanked the Council for their condolence letters/cards and phone calls regarding the death of his sister who died on the flight that went down in Pennsylvania on that tragic day of September 11, 2001.
- c. New Jersey has a new Vietnam Distinguished Service Medal for veterans who entered the military from New Jersey and returned to New Jersey during that period of conflict.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS:** Officers' Club, Gibbs Hall, have decorum with a more military ambience.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned 11:30 a.m.



LOUIS GUILIANO  
MSG(Ret), USA  
Secretary/Treasurer/Historian

ROBERT WALDBURGER  
LTC(Ret), AUS  
Chairman